

5 December 1958

TO: Assistant Director for Research and Reports
FROM: Acting Chief, Economic Research Area
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Month of November

Current and Other Support Activity

1. Current support activity during November was marked by the Area-wide effort on the Soviet Seven-Year Plan Theses. The resulting DCI memorandum was widely distributed throughout the government and elicited favorable comments. The White House requested clearance of the material for public dissemination.

2. Other current support activity included NSC briefings on Soviet Civil Defense and Soviet Civil Air, a continued high level of support to the Watch Committee on the Taiwan Straits, Berlin, and Middle East situations and preparation of articles for OCI publications on a variety of subjects. In addition to the Soviet Seven-Year Plan Theses, mentioned above, particular attention was paid to the Iraqi receipt of Soviet arms, the economic background of East-West German relations, and developments in the Chinese communes and "leap forward" programs.

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7. To meet the need for basic and timely information on significant developments in the Bloc iron and steel industries, Materials Division plans to prepare annual summary reviews on the status of the industry in the USSR, European Satellites, and the Far East respectively. The scheduling of the reviews will be coordinated with the NIS production schedule.

8. ACSI (Army) admits that its definition of telecommunications equipment is so narrow as to exclude a wide variety of industrial electronic equipment. It is believed that ACSI would agree to permit CIA to assume the NIS responsibility for industrial electronics production. This possibility is being explored further.

Briefings and Speeches

9. Acting Chief/E and the Division Chiefs conducted two briefings to acquaint State Department officers with the functions and activities of the Economic Research Area. Those briefed included David Henry, Chief, DRS, John Lacy, Chief, DRF, and Edwin Martin, Director, Office of Chinese Affairs. It is hoped to repeat these briefings for certain other State Department officers dealing with Bloc countries.

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10. Messrs. [redacted] briefed the Strategic Planning Staff of State Department on 25 November on the long run threat of Soviet economic competition.

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12. [redacted] Chief, I/CM briefed the Ad Hoc Panel of Consultants convened by the Chairman, USIB, to consider the status of the Soviet ICBM program. The briefing was concerned primarily with the fragmentary evidence available to U.S. intelligence on the production and deployment of Soviet ICBMs, and the implications of the lack of conclusive evidence of such activity in the USSR at the present time. These subjects received particular attention in the Panel's final report to USIB.

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Approved For Release 2005/03/28 : CIA-RDP62S00545A000100020005-9

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